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Spotlights: Faculty, Alum, and Course

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Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Suellen Adams began her library career as the librarian for Madison Junior College of Business in Madison, Wisconsin, by accident. She already had a bachelor's degree in theater arts from Upper Iowa University but was taking classes at the Junior College in order to enhance job skills. When the school lost its librarian suddenly, she was asked if she would take the position and study for a master's degree.

Over the next few years, Dr. Adams worked as the librarian at MJCB and earned her M.A. in Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin. She also began to teach general studies courses, as well as teaching speech and theater as an adjunct at the Madison Campus of Upper Iowa University. She found that she particularly enjoyed teaching the evening classes of mostly non-traditional older students who were motivated to learn in furtherance of their careers. This led to the desire to teach students at another level, and to teach them about LIS, a field she had come to love.

After 12 years at the junior college, Dr. Adams moved to Austin, Texas, and began her doctoral studies at the University of Texas. At the same time, she and her partner Glenda, along with two others, founded Westlake Interactive, a video game porting company, where she was business coordinator. There she began talking to gamers and found that for many of them gaming went beyond entertainment.

This observation led, eventually, to a dissertation examining the information-seeking and meaning-making patterns in virtual play spaces. She earned her Ph.D in 2006.

Dr. Adams spent four years as a faculty member in the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Rhode Island. She left in 2010 for family reasons and became an adjunct for a several universities, including the University of Southern Mississippi. She has taught a variety of courses at USM, ranging from collection management to cataloging to social media and points in between.

She has a passion for teaching, and enjoys the challenge of teaching a wide variety of courses. Through the years she has maintained her interest in the intersection of information and recreation. She is the author of *Crash Course in Gaming for Libraries* and her latest research involves information-seeking and meaning-making among serious recreational athletes. In recent years she has presented her research at a variety of national and international conferences related to LIS, popular culture, play and health promotion.

In spring 2017, Dr. Adams will be teaching LIS 511: Collection Development and Management online on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm Central time.

To learn more about Dr. Suellen Adams, see: <http://www.suellenadams.com/>



Alumnus Spotlight – Stephen Parks



Stephen Parks, a native of LaGrange, NC, earned a bachelor's degree from East Carolina University, a J.D. from Mississippi College, and a MLIS degree from Southern Miss in 2013. He worked as a Research and Instructional Services Librarian at Mississippi College Law Library and served as Director of the Judicial Data Project and Legislative History Project, a digital database of Mississippi's legal history (judicial.mc.edu/) that allows free access to appellate briefs, oral argument videos, excerpts from appellate records, and statistical data from the Mississippi Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

This digital project earned American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) 2012 Innovations in Technology Award. Another project Mr. Parks worked on, the Legislative History Project (law.mc.edu/legislature/), won the AALL 2014 Public Access to Government Information Award and he published a related article "Bringing Mississippi's Government into the Homes of its Citizens: The Miss. College Law Library's Legislative History Project" in *Mississippi Libraries*, spring 2013 issue.

In 2013, Mr. Parks presented "A Bibliometric Study of LIS Literature Related to Academic Law Librarianship" at 5th International Conference on Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries, *Universita di Roma la Sapienza*, Rome, Italy. The paper was selected for publication in the *QQML Journal* January 2015 issue.

Mr. Parks has served as president of the Central Mississippi Library Council and is a member of the Mississippi Bar, the American Association of Law Libraries, and the Southeastern Chapter of AALL. He serves as a Southern Miss SLIS adjunct faculty and in spring 2015, taught a special topics course on law librarianship. In spring 2017, he is scheduled to teach **LIS 664: Government Resources and Publications**, Tuesday evenings at 8pm Central.

On January 7, 2016, Mr. Parks was sworn in as the new State Librarian in Jackson. In this position, he manages a staff that provides services to Mississippi's Supreme Court, other state courts, state officials and the general public. According to Stephen, "Two of my favorite topics to read and research on are Mississippi and the law, and this position will be a great fit for me to pursue those interests."



Stephen Parks is sworn in as Head of the State Law Library, Jackson, Mississippi (photo by Chris Todd, courts.ms.gov/news/2016/01.08.16Parks,%20Law%20Librarian.pdf)

Spotlight Course –

LIS 664 Government Resources and Publications

This online 3-credit hour elective is a study of local, state, and federal government resources, publications, and bibliographic organization. Students learn to locate and evaluate government resources and write a paper on the print and online publications of a specific government agency.